

Barbara Pauline Blackledge – 28 February 2014

I called Babs today for her 89th birthday (28 Feb 2014), about 11 am Calif time which would be about 2 pm Naples time. Debbie answered immediately, and put Barbara on the phone.

Barbara sounded great on the phone, as she usually does. After a short while, she indicated she was having trouble hearing me. “Is that my phone or yours?” She tried switching ears, which seemed to be a little better.

Two disturbing questions during our conversation: “How is your Mother?” I was taken aback, and asked, “Do you mean Miss Bonnie?” “No, your Mother – or is she dead?” “Yes, Barbara she died some time ago. [over 40 years]” The other question was when she said, “You should think about coming out here for a visit ... well, I’m not sure what my husband would say ... is he dead?”

Finally, Debbie asked if she could talk to me for awhile, and I think Barbara was ready to give up the conversation.

Debbie waited until Barbara left the room, and then stage whispered much of the next ten minutes. According to Debbie: Barbara has had three sets of hearing aids at \$10K a pop, and doesn’t want to wear any of them. She cannot read a book as she forgets what she has read, but she does read the newspaper completely each day (but does not do well when quizzed on contents by Debbie.)

Her blood pressure runs really high in the morning: has been about 179/110 but this morning it was 155/90. She is taking blood pressure medication along with numerous other medications, most of them twice a day, including taking aspirin twice a day, Lisinopril twice a day, and some memory meds. She weights 108 lbs and Debbie feels Barbara is taking all the meds she can handle.

She has fallen twice in the last 3 months, 2nd time in January, so she is now on a walker. However, she can take a few steps without a walker, so it is a constant reminder for Debbie to try to get her to use the walker. She has bladder problems. She currently suffers from **impetigo** (skin disease infection)

Separate (somewhat) subject: Debbie is tiring of caring for Barbara, but Barbara adamantly refuses to be admitted to Arbor Glen, the Assisted Living facility at Arbor Trace. But Debbie says the last few months have been rugged. She ended the conversation with: “Oh, gosh, she’s walking into the kitchen without a walker – good by!”

Debbie says don’t be surprised if she has Barbara admitted to Arbor Glen. Debbie will meet with Erika (financial planner) about 21 March, and this will be a topic. Debbie says March 1 (when Barbara is now 89 years of age) will make a difference. However, Debbie herself is talking about her old “Top Secret” work – you don’t think the Culpeper house was just a house, do you? Here is a hint: it was previously owned by a CIA operative.

Pete and Laura are aware of Debbie's sensitive position – I said, I know Laura is working with the CIA and Debbie says, CIA isn't the only gov't spy agency.